

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IR, PFOR
SUBJECT: GOI SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON FOREIGN ISSUES

1. MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM DARIUSH HOMAYOUN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JAN. 10 FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS RESIDING IN IRAN. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERVIEW WERE REPRINTED IN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE JOURNAL DE TEHRAN ARE NOTED BELOW.

2. ON PERSIAN GULF SECURITY, HOMAYOUN SAID THAT "THE POLICY OF THE GOI IS CLEAR...WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN FAVOR OF A POLICY OF COOPERATION WITH ALL THE RIPARIAN STATES, BECAUSE ACCORDING TO IRAN, PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THAT VITAL ZONE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL THE LITTORAL STATES. AT THE SAME TIME, IRAN IS IN FAVOR OF TOTAL FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF. IRAN WILL, IN CONSEQUENCE, FOLLOW UP ALL EFFORTS OF LITTORAL STATES TO ARRIVE AT THIS OBJECTIVE IN THE REGION." IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION OF GULF SECURITY, THE MINISTER STATED: "THE GOI HAS NOT PROPOSED A CONCRETE FORMULA. WE HAVE ONLY INDICATED OUR SUPPORT IN GENERAL TERMS WITH ANY ACCEPTABLE FORM OF COOPERATION, ON THE BASIS OF A COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE OTHER LITTORAL STATES."

3. CONCERNING THE INDIAN OCEAN, HOMAYOUN REPEATED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WELL KNOWN POSITION "THAT MAINTENANCE OF AN INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE CAN ONLY BE REALIZED BY THE LITTORAL STATES WITHOUT EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE".

4. WHEN ASKED FOR A COMMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, THE MINISTER SAID, "THE POSITION OF IRAN IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IS WELL KNOWN. WE ARE IN FAVOR OF THE

APPLICATION OF INSC RES. 242 AND 388. AT THE SAME TIME,
WE WILL LEND SUPPORT TO ALL POSITIVE INITIATIVES WHICH
CAN LEAD TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE."

5. ONE QUESTION DEALT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, SPECIFICALLY
THE IRC AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. HOMAYOUN RESPONDED
THAT "THE GOI HAS BEEN THE ONLY GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IRC TO VISIT IRANIAN
PRISONS. THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF
PRISON CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE PARLIAMENT
AND PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS."

6. COMMENT: HOYAYOUN'S PRESS CONFERENCE DID NOT BREAK
NEW GROUND BUT SERVED RATHER AS A FORUM FOR REITERATION
OF WELL KNOWN GOI POLICIES. THIS IS THE LATEST IN A
RECENT SERIES OF PUBLIC INTERVIEWS GRANTED BY THE MINISTER.
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